

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**

DO NOT ENTER: /TV/ (01/21/2008)

**TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2174**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Lance E. GOOD et al.

Group Art Unit: 2174

Application No.: 10/707,532

Examiner: T. VU

Filed: December 19, 2003

Docket No.: 115733

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR ENHANCING RECOGNIZABILITY OF OBJECTS  
IN A WORKSPACE

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the October 31, 2007 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-8, 10-21 and 23-39 are pending.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13-17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26-30, 32-34, 36, 37, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,968,511 to Robertson et al. ("Robertson"). The cancellation of claim 40 by the Amendment filed August 15, 2007 renders this rejection moot. The rejection of the remaining claims is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 14 and 27 each recite that a predetermined distance is at least one of a distance from the closest object in the second object/group, a distance from the center of the second object/group, and a distance from a boundary of the second object/group, and that

whether a first object/group is moved to a location within the predetermined distance of a second object/group is determined.

The Office Action asserts that col. 25, lines 34-41 of Robertson discloses this feature. In particular, the Office Action asserts that Robertson's teaching of a predetermined distance from a cluster indicator to determine a group of objects defines the boundary of the group. Applicants respectfully submit that even if Robertson's teaching with respect to the predetermined distance defines the boundary of the group, Robertson does not teach or suggest that the predetermined distance is at least one of a distance from the closest object in the second object/group, a distance from the center of the second object/group, and a distance from a boundary of the second object/group, as discussed below.

Col. 25, lines 25-27 of Robertson discloses that a determination is made as to whether the object is closer to a different cluster indicator than to its associated cluster indicator. Col. 25, lines 34-39 discloses that a threshold determination is made to discern whether the object is within a predetermined distance of the other cluster indicator(s). Col. 25, lines 49-51 discloses that the object is visually associated with the closest cluster indicator so as to become a member of the cluster represented by such indicator.

As asserted by the Office Action, Robertson teaches at col. 25, lines 39-42 that the threshold for the predetermined distance can range from zero to infinity. Although the threshold distance from a cluster indicator to the object may define the boundary of the group, the determination of the distance is always based on the distance from the cluster indicator as discussed above, and not from the boundary of the group. Therefore, Robertson does not teach or suggest that the predetermined distance is at least one of a distance from the closest object in the second object/group, a distance from the center of the second object/group, and a distance from a boundary of the second object/group, as recited in claims 1, 14 and 27.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 14 and 27 are patentably distinct from Robertson.

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13, 15-17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26, 28-30, 32-34, 36, 37 and 39 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable base claims, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

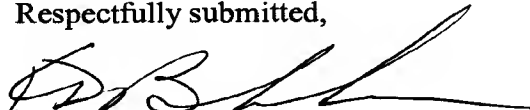
The Office Action rejects claims 5, 12, 18, 25, 31 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Robertson and U.S. Patent No. 5,371,844 to Andrew et al. (Andrew). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Andrew does not overcome the deficiency of Robertson with respect to claims 1, 14 and 27. Therefore, claims 5, 12, 18, 25, 31 and 38 are patentable over the applied references at least for their dependence on the allowable claims, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:KXH/hms

Date: January 2, 2008

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